

WI-269  
Jay Williams Law Office  
Salisbury  
Private

c. 1895-96, c. 1905-10

The Jay Williams law office is a distinctive three-story, two-bay brick commercial block that stands on the west side of North Division Street across from the Wicomico County Courthouse. A combination of pressed red brick with yellow brick banding and a rusticated stone beltcourse distinguish the asymmetrical facade that is dominated by a projecting three-story bay topped by a galvanized and decorated pediment. The building was assembled in two distinct stages; the initial two-story, two-bay brick office was erected around 1895-96 following the extensive 1886 Salisbury fire that destroyed the central business district. In November 1895 Simon and Carrie Ulman sold the parcel of land on which this building was erected for \$800. Jeanette C. Williams of Nyack, Rockland County, New York purchased the property and evidently financed construction of the office building. Seven years later, Jeanette C. Williams transferred ownership of the building and lot to attorney Jay Williams for \$2,600. The raising of the building from two stories to three is documented by the Sanborn Insurance maps. In 1904 the building was labeled a two-story structure, while in 1911 it had been revised on the map to a three-story building. There are distinct shifts in the brickwork on the south side that documents the construction sequence as well. The law office remained in Williams family hands until Jay Williams' widow, Blanche, sold the property to the Trustees of Wicomico Lodge No. 91 in August 1935.

RESOURCE NAME: Jay Williams Law Office

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):      Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation:      Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s):      Industrial/Urban Dominance  
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s):      Commercial Block  
- former law office

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-269

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Jay Williams Law Office

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 116 North Division Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Wicomico Lodge No. 91 A.F. & A.M.

street & number P. O. Box 1391 telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107 Parcel 1037  
liber IDT 193

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 183

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-269

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Historically known as the Jay Williams law office, the three-story, two-bay by four-bay brick commercial block is located at 116 North Division Street in the center of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The building faces east.

Dating around 1890 and enlarged around 1905-10, the three-story, pressed brick stretcher bond and common bond commercial block is flanked on its south and west sides by an alley and on the north side by an early 20th century commercial block. A distinct seam and change in the color of brickwork on the south side indicate that the building was raised from two stories to three stories.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with an altered first floor storefront. A centered recessed entrance is flanked by large glass display windows dating from the mid twentieth century. The second and third floors have not been changed significantly since the building was enlarged and remodeled around 1910. The top of the first floor is accented with a rusticated stone beltcourse, and yellow brick beltcourses mark the top of the second and third floor windows. The right (north) bay projects slightly and is the dominant focus for the commercial front. Slightly wider than the left (south) bay, the north bay is pierced by tripartite windows on the first and second floors, and a galvanized metal pediment caps the pavilion. Classical relief decoration embellishes the tympanum of the pediment. The second floor tripartite window is subdivided with small windows fixed above the narrow single-pane sash. Incorporated within the yellow brick beltcourses are brick jack arches.

The narrow left bay is pierced by a single-pane sash windows on the second and third floors with the yellow brick beltcourses stretching across at window lintel height. The brick jack arches, executed in yellow brick, are incorporated within the beltcourses. Capping the top of the parapet wall is a galvanized metal cornice.

The south side elevation reveals the distinct raising of the building from two floors to three. There is a clear change in the color of the brick, and the outline of the former stepped parapet is discernable. The current top of the wall is a stepped parapet wall. An interior side stove chimney rises above the parapet roof.

The interiors have been extensively reworked to suit mid to late twentieth century office space. The third floor was not seen.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-269

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Jay Williams law office is a distinctive three-story, two-bay brick commercial block that stands on the west side of North Division Street across from the Wicomico County Courthouse. A combination of pressed red brick with yellow brick banding and a rusticated stone beltcourse distinguish the asymmetrical facade that is dominated by a projecting three-story bay topped by a galvanized and decorated pediment. The building was assembled in two distinct stages; the initial two-story, two-bay brick office was erected around 1895-96 following the extensive 1886 Salisbury fire that destroyed the central business district. In November 1895 Simon and Carrie Ulman sold the parcel of land on which this building was erected for \$800.(1) Jeanette C. Williams of Nyack, Rockland County, New York purchased the property and evidently financed construction of the office building. Seven years later, Jeanette C. Williams transferred ownership of the building and lot to attorney Jay Williams for \$2,600.(2) The raising of the building from two stories to three is documented by the Sanborn Insurance maps. In 1904 the building was labeled a two-story structure(3), while in 1911 it had been revised on the map to a three-story building.(4) There are distinct shifts in the brickwork on the south side that documents the construction sequence as well. The law office remained in Williams family hands until Jay Williams' widow, Blanche, sold the property to the Trustees of Wicomico Lodge No. 91 in August 1935.(5)

The building qualifies for listing in *Category A*, which identifies buildings that must be preserved due to their architectural and/or historical merit. Few alterations have been made to the second and third floors of this building, and it contributes to the diversity of North Division Street and the historic central business district.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-269

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 4/25/96

street &amp; number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2025  
514-7600

WI-269  
Jay Williams Law Office  
116 North Division Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 1037

IDT 193/183

A. Blanche Williams, widow

to

8/22/1935

Charles E. Harper, Trustees of Wicomico Lodge No. 91  
J. McFadden Dick  
Edward C. Fulton  
Ralph H. Grier

“Williams Building” \$15,100.00

JTT 34/1

Jeanette C. Williams, City of New York

to

9/\_\_/1902

Jay Williams, Salisbury

\$2,600.00

JTT 34/2

Simon Ulman

to

9/27/1902

Jay Williams  
6" by 92' strip of land

JTT 17/121-2

Simon Ulman  
Carrie Ulman

to

11/23/1895

Jeanette C. Williams, Nyack, Rockland County, N. Y.  
\$800.00

### 8.1 SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

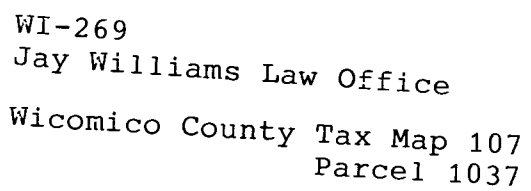
Jay Williams Law Office

Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

#### Footnotes

- 1 Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 17/121-2, November 23, 1895, Wicomico County Courthouse.
- 2 Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 34/1, September \_\_\_\_, 1902, Wicomico County Courthouse.
- 3 Sanborn Insurance Map, Salisbury, 1904, Maryland State Archives.
- 4 Sanborn Insurance Map, Salisbury, 1911, Maryland State Archives.
- 5 Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 193/183, August 22, 1935, Wicomico County Courthouse





A scale bar labeled "SCALE IN FEET" is shown. The bar has alternating black and white segments. The markings are 200, 0, 200, 400, and 600.

WI-269

Jay Williams Law Office

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

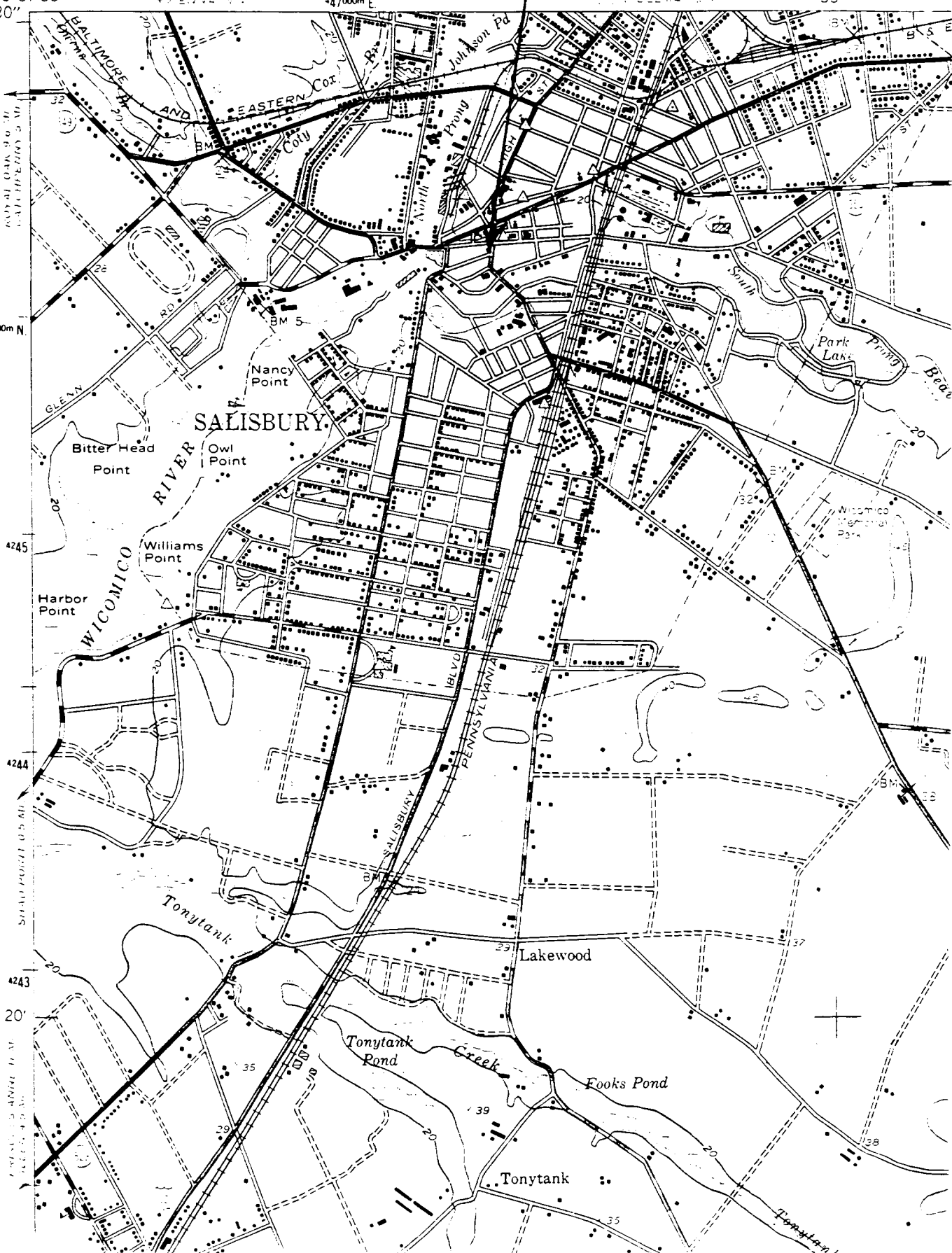
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942

5860' NW  
(HEBRON)

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

447000m E

4246000m N





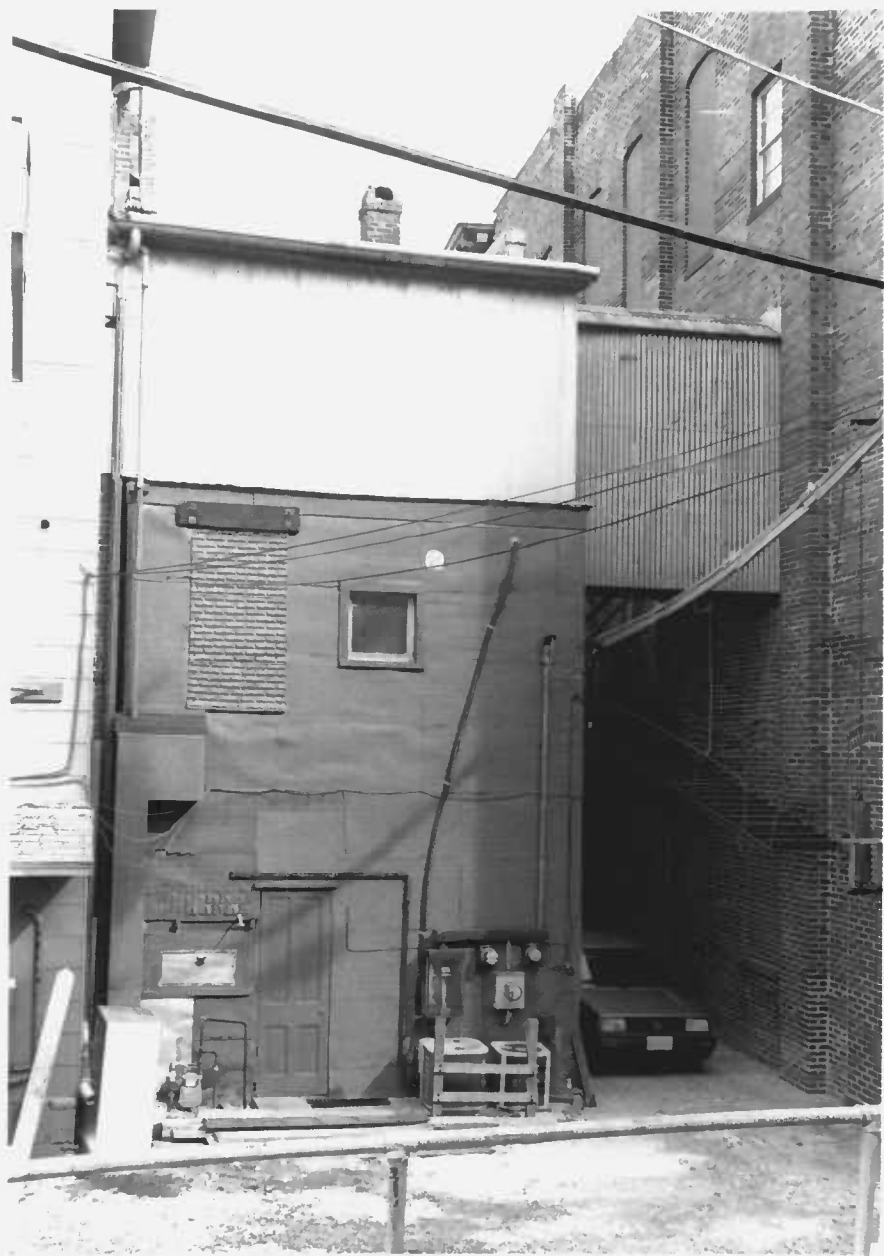
The Caldwell Company

FLO









VI. 269

Law, William Law Office

1903-1904. North 2 1/2

West 2200-21

3/92 Paul Frank 2000.

1901-1902. North 2 1/2









